

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
S C O T L A N D,

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the 21st Day of *May*, 1761.

Collected and extracted from the Record by the Clerk thereof.



E D I N B U R G H:

Printed by Mr. JAMES DAVIDSON and ROBERT
FLEMING, Printers to the CHURCH of SCOT-
LAND, M,DCC,LXI.

42.

4

2

69



THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Thursday* the 21st Day of *May* 1761,
and concluded the 1st Day of *June* thereafter.

I.

The King's Commission to *Charles*
Lord *Cathcart*, produced, and or-
dered to be recorded,

Edinburgh, May 26th, 1761.



HERE was produced to the General Assembly,
by the Right Honourable CHARLES Lord CATH-
cart, the King's Commission, sealed with the
Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept
and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal
of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High
Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which be-
ing publicly read, with all due Honour and Respect, was or-
dered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly; the Tenor
whereof follows:

GEORGIUS

GEORGIUS Dei gratia magnæ Britanniae, Franciae, et Hiberniae Rex, fidei defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos praesentes literae nostrae pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiae Scotiae conventus, in vigesimum primum diem mensis Maii instantis convenire, ordinatus fuit: Nosq. etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes, in commodum dict. ecclesiae, ut idem generalis ecclesiae conventus, die statuto, debite observetur; atq. rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dict. conventui personaliter interesse nequimus: Nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei, CAROLI domini CATHCART, quod ad summum munus postea mentionat. rite exercendum et obeundum, usq. quaq. sit instructus et idoneus: Noveritis igitur nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti tenore praesentium nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum CAROLUM dominum CATHCART, supremum nostrum Commissionarium, ad effectum postea mentionat. dando pariter et concedendo illi plenissimam nostram potestatem, commissionem et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem repraesentandi, nec non praesentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro, ad hunc effectum specialiter constitut. tenendi; omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiae conventu peragendi, tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore praeterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter praesentes facere potuerimus: Quaeque omnia et singula ab antedicto CAROLO domino CATHCART, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis dictae ecclesiae Pastoribus et Presbyteris, caeterisque quibuscunq. infra illam partem magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocat. subditis nostris cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum CAROLUM dominum CATHCART, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionat. reveantur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se praebent, stricte mandamus et imperamus. Atq. hanc nostram commissionem a dict. vigesimo primo die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps hac subsequente sessione dict. generalis conventus in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiendum et in Scotia vice et loco magni sigilli ejusdem utendum, ordinatum, praesentibus appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostram apud *St. James's* sexto die

die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo sexagesimo primo, regnique nostri anno primo.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis superscript.

Sealed this twenty-fifth day of May, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one years, by special warrant from his Majesty, directed to me as present Haver or Custodier of the Great Seal appointed to be used in Scotland, dated the twenty-second of May current.
(Signed) Arch. Campbell.

Written to the Seal, and registered the twenty-fifth day of May, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one.
(Signed) John Russel Depr.



II.

The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

Edinburgh, May 26th, 1761.

Suprascribitur. GEORGE REX.



RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved, we greet you well! Having the most perfect Confidence as well in your Loyalty and Affection to our Person and Government, as in your Zeal for the Encouragement of Virtue and Piety, We take this first Opportunity of assuring you of our fixt Purpose and Resolution to support the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, in the full Enjoyment of its Rights and Privileges as by Law established.

At the same Time, as we have no Doubt of your coming together in the best Intentions to promote the Happiness of our Reign, and the true Interest of the Church, whereof you are Members, we have a particular Satisfaction in countenancing your present Meeting, with our Royal Authority.

B

The

The many and repeated Proofs, which your former Assemblies have given of their Wisdom, Prudence, and Temper, are an Earnest to us of the Moderation which we may expect from you, in avoiding all unnecessary Debates and Contentions amongst yourselves, and giving your whole Attention to the Means of advancing true Religion, and the Service of Almighty God.

The preventing as much as possible the Growth of Popery, and the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, to the utmost of your Power, are Objects of so great Consequence, that you may be fully assured of our ready Concurrence with you, in whatever may tend to the Attainment of so desirable Ends.

And as you cannot but be affected with the most sensible Pleasure, in reflecting upon the present undisturbed Tranquillity and Freedom which you enjoy in common with the rest of our good Subjects of *Scotland*, we are persuaded you will think it of the highest Moment, to infuse into the Minds of the People under your Charge, such Principles, and such a Spirit, as may be best adapted to the Security of our happy Constitution, and their own most valuable Interests.

We have appointed our Right Trusty and Well-beloved *Charles Lord Cathcart*, to represent our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied with his Loyalty, Integrity, and Zeal for our Service. You have before had Experience of his Abilities for the Discharge of this important Trust, which we now confer upon him, and of his particular Affection to the Church of *Scotland*, and Concern for its Prosperity; so that we have the greatest Reason to believe, that our Choice of him upon this Occasion, will be most agreeable to you.

There is nothing more remaining, but to acquaint you with our Hopes, that the Charity, Brotherly Love, and Unanimity of your Proceedings, in the Business before you, will bring this your Meeting to as happy a Conclusion as that of any former Assembly: And so we bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at our Court at *St. James's*, the sixth Day of May 1761, in the first Year of our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

BUTE.

III. The

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to
the King's most gracious Letter.*May it please your Majesty.*

Our Majesty's most gracious Letter to this first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which hath had the Happiness to meet since the Beginning of your Majesty's most auspicious Reign, we received with the greatest Joy, and do acknowledge with the utmost Gratitude.

Your Majesty's being pleased, in so gracious a Manner, to take this first Opportunity of assuring us of your fixed Purpose and Resolution to support the Church of Scotland in the full Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges, as by Law established, is a most endearing Testimony of your Royal Favour to us, which we humbly accept of with the greatest Thankfulness, and rely upon with the firmest Confidence, as esteeming your Majesty's Royal Protection to be, under God, our greatest Security. Your Majesty does us the greatest Honour, when you are pleased to express the most perfect Confidence in our Loyalty and Affection to your Person and Government, and in our Zeal for the Encouragement of Virtue and Piety; and it shall be our constant Care, through divine Assistance, so to acquit ourselves upon every Occasion, as that your Majesty may never have Reason to entertain a less favourable Opinion of this Church. These Sentiments are deeply rooted in our Hearts, and we shall most cheerfully embrace every Opportunity of expressing them.

Your Majesty's countenancing our present Meeting with your Royal Authority, we take as a great Blessing from God, and a most engaging Evidence of your Majesty's Royal Goodness. To promote the Happiness of your Majesty's Reign, and the true Interests of this Church, are great and desirable Ends, which we are bound always to have in View: and we should be most unworthy of your Majesty's Favour, and of the Character we bear, if we had not the best Disposition to contribute to them all in our Power.

The Mention your Majesty is pleased to make of the many and repeated Proofs which our former General Assemblies
have

have given of their Wisdom, Prudence, and Temper, shews us your Majesty's kind Inclination to approve what hath been done by others before us according to their Duty, and is a great Incitement to us to follow the good Example of those with whom your Majesty hath the Goodness to express yourself so well satisfied. We are sensible how much Disputes and Contentions among ourselves would give Advantage to those who are Enemies to the Peace and Prosperity of your Majesty's Government, upon which our own Welfare, under God, does depend: And we humbly acknowledge your Majesty's fatherly Tenderness for us, in being pleased to caution us against them, and in recommending to us the giving our whole Attention to the Means of advancing true Religion, and the Service of Almighty God. We pray and hope, that the good Spirit of God, who is the Spirit of Love and Peace, will assist us to dispatch all our Business with that Unanimity, brotherly Love, and Charity, which becomes the Servants of the Prince of Peace, and which is so necessary to the bringing of our Meeting, at this Time, to a happy Conclusion.

We cannot but thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's royal Wisdom and watchful Care, in calling upon us to prevent, as much as possible, the Growth of Popery; and the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, to the utmost of our Power: and the Assurance your Majesty gives us of your ready Concurrence in whatever may tend to the Attainment of so desirable Ends, is at once the greatest Encouragement and Obligation for us to exert ourselves in the most vigorous Manner for accomplishing them.

The present undisturbed Tranquillity and Freedom we enjoy in common with the rest of your Majesty's good Subjects, excite in us the most sensible Pleasure; and it shall always be our principal Care, to make the People under our Charge, deeply sensible of the many great and invaluable Blessings they now enjoy under your Majesty's wise Government and Administration; and to infuse into them those Principles of Piety and Loyalty, on which the Security of their own most invaluable Interests entirely depend.

To this we are greatly animated by your royal Proclamation, in the Beginning of your Reign, and in a special Manner, by your princely Donation to this General Assembly, for promoting the Knowledge and Practice of Religion in the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and Places where Popery and Ignorance prevails. For this we beg Leave to return your Majesty our most humble and grateful Acknowledgments; and earnestly pray, that God may abundantly reward you for so great a Charity; and we shall take the most effectual Care, faithfully to apply
it

it to the pious Purposes for which it is granted by your Majesty.

Lord Cathcart hath given such eminent Proofs of his Loyalty, Integrity, and Zeal for your Majesty's Service, and of his Abilities, on many former Occasions, for the Discharge of this important Trust which your Majesty has reposed in him, and of his most affectionate Concern for the Prosperity and Happiness of this Church, as render your Majesty's Choice of him, to represent your royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable and obliging to us; and we humbly acknowledge it as a particular Evidence of your Majesty's Goodness.

That the God and Father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST may long preserve your Majesty to be a Blessing to these Lands, the Guardian of our Liberties, civil and sacred, and the Support of the Protestant Interest; that he may bless your Majesty's Arms in the just and necessary War in which you are now engaged, for vindicating the Honour of your Crown, and redressing the Injuries done to your Subjects; and that he may prosper all your Majesty's Endeavours for restoring the Peace, and preserving the Liberties of *Europe*; that he may bless the Princess-dowager of *Wales*, and all the Branches of your royal Family; that there may never be wanting one of your most illustrious House to fill the Throne of these Kingdoms to latest Ages; and, that after a long and happy Reign, over a free and dutiful People, you may exchange an earthly for a heavenly Crown, are, and shall be the sincere and hearty Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

*Edin. May
27th, 1761.*

*Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at
our Appointment, by*

JOHN HYNDMAN Moderator.

C

IV. The

IV.

The General Assembly's Address to King on his Accession to the Throne of these Realms.

May it please your Majesty,



E, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of *Scotland*, as we heartily approve the Conduct of the Commission of the late Assembly, in congratulating your Majesty's auspicious Accession to the Throne of your Ancestors, so we embrace with Pleasure this first Opportunity, which our Meeting together in a National Assembly affords us, of expressing our own Joy on Account of an Event so happy for *Great Britain*.

The many Blessings which we had enjoyed, during so long a Tract of Time, under the mild and paternal Government of your royal Grandfather, gave us the highest Reason to join in that deep and universal Sorrow which filled the Nation on his Death. The Memory of so just and gracious a Sovereign, whose Councils and Arms were so remarkably blessed by the Almighty, as it must long remain ingraven on our Hearts, cannot fail to endear to us the more every Descendent of his illustrious Family.

With most lively Gratitude to Heaven, we now behold your Majesty raised, in the Prime of Life, to the Throne of these Realms; and, under your happy Administration, we have the greatest Reason to promise ourselves the Continuance and Increase of all public Felicity. Trained up from your earliest Youth to every princely Virtue; conspicuous for a Steadiness and Greatness of Mind superior to the Snares of Royalty; endowed with a Heart and Affections truly *British*; and formed to know, and to love, that Constitution of which you are the Guardian; distinguished, in particular, for that sincere Regard to Religion, which adds so much Lustre to your exalted Character: Your Majesty became, from the Moment of your Accession to the Crown, the Object of the highest Hopes to all your Subjects. Every Step of your Administration, since that Time, has confirmed and enlarged these Hopes.

Nor can we omit to join in the general Admiration and Applause due to that Virtue, which disposed your Majesty to
relinquish

relinquish Power and Revenues, which, though most safely lodged in Hands so pure as yours, might have been employed, in some future Period, to the Prejudice of that Liberty which you love and cherish. With Hearts full of Affection, we repose an entire Confidence in your Majesty, as the great Defender of our Faith and Liberties; and, in particular, as the Protector of the Rights and Privileges of the Church of *Scotland*, which you have given us the most gracious Assurances of your Intention to maintain.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that amongst all your Subjects, none are more distinguished for their Fidelity and Loyalty to your Person and Government, than the Members of the Church of *Scotland*. A Church which dates the *Æra* of its secure Establishment, from that happy Period of the Revolution, which introduced your Royal House to the Throne of *Great Britain*, must have the strongest Motive to a most sincere and faithful Attachment to your Majesty. Animated, as we are, with the deepest Sense of the inestimable Happiness we derive from our sacred and civil Constitution, it ever has been, it ever shall be, our zealous Endeavour, to inspire with like Sentiments, all who are within our Influence, or under our Care. The Blessings of a wise and merciful Government, now so universally felt in every Part of your Dominions, give us the best Reason to hope, that your Majesty will reign in the Hearts, and may command the united Strength of all your People.

That the great God of Heaven, by whom Kings reign, may crown all your Undertakings with Success; that he may inspire you with the Spirit both of Counsel and of Might; that he may scatter all your Foes; and that, after having long made you the Instrument of blessing a free and happy People, he may raise you to an high Place in his Glory above, are the sincere and fervent Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

*Edin. May
27th 1761.*

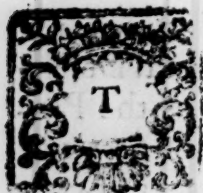
*Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and
at our Appointment, by*

JOHN HYNDMAN Moderator.

V. Edin-

V.

Edinburgh, 29th May, 1761.



THE Acts of the General Assemblies 1712, and 1719, respecting the public Money, ordered to be reprinted with the Acts of this Assembly, and the Instructions to the Commission to contain a particular Appointment on them, to observe these Acts, which are as follows, viz.

VII.

ACT directing the right Application of the Money granted by her Majesty, for defraying the public Charges of this Church.

Edinburgh, May 9th, 1712. Sess. 8th.

THE General Assembly considering, that the Assembly held in the Year 1709, did, by their Act dated the 25th Day of April that Year, discharge any more Precepts to be drawn, till all former Debts of the Church were paid, and all Precepts ordered, or drawn before that Time, were declared payable out of the Equivalent, according to the Order of their Dates; And the said Act appoints, That her Majesty's yearly Allowance to the Church, be in the first Place applied for defraying the Charges of the Church, for that particular Year for which it is given; and if there be any Remains, that the same be applied for Payment of the Church's Debts for preceeding Years, according to the Order of Ranking set down in the Act of the Commission, dated the 7th Day of January 1707; and the Church's Receiver is appointed to apply the said Money in the Manner and Order above prescribed; and that so soon as the Money comes to his Hands, he put some thereof yearly in the Hands of one of the Agents for the Church, to be given out by him for the incident Charges of the Church, for which he shall be accountable to each General Assembly. And the General Assembly finding it necessary, that the said Rules be further explained and extended, and that the proper Uses to which the public Money should be applied, be fixed and determined, and that a certain Proportion thereof yearly be allotted for the incident Charges of the Church's Affairs, and that such other Orders be laid down, as that the pressing Affairs of the Church may not be retarded for Want of Money to expedite the same; therefore the General Assembly does hereby enact and appoint, First, That of her Majesty's yearly Allowance for defraying the public Charges of the Church's Affairs, and the Salaries of the Church's public Servants, there be always the Sum of 100 l. Sterling Money in Reserve, for answering any extraordinary Emergencies in the Church's Affairs. Secondly, That no Commission of any General Assembly

sembly in Time coming shall have Power, and they are hereby discharged to dispose of any more of the Church's Money, but of one Year's Allowance only, reckoning the Commencement of the Year, as the same is fixed by her Majesty's Grant, viz. from the 24th Day of *June* in the Year preceeding: And the Commission of this Assembly is hereby allowed only to dispose of what is untouched of this Year's Allowance, reckoning the Commencement from the 24th Day of *June* last bypast, that thereby the next General Assembly, and every subsequent General Assembly of this Church, and their Commissions, may have one Year's Allowance entire, without any Anticipations or Encroachments by preceeding Assemblies or Commissions, to defray the necessary Charges of the Church, during the Time of their Administration. Thirdly, The General Assembly appoints, that each Year's Allowance be applied in the first Place for defraying the stated annual Charges of the Church quarterly; and the necessary Exigencies of each particular Year, that is, in such Matters only as during the Time of every Commission's Administration shall occur, which do immediately and directly concern the public Interest of the whole Church in general; and any Arrears of these that shall happen to be resting: And in the next Place, for Payment of the other bygone Debts of the Church then resting, according to the aforesaid Order of Ranking already established; and the General Assembly discharges any new Orders to be given, or Precepts to be drawn upon any other Accounts, until all the Church's bygone Debts be paid; but after Payment of all prior Debts, the General Assembly allows the several Commissions to bestow that which remains of each Year's Allowance, to such other Uses of the Church as they shall judge most proper. Fourthly, The General Assembly hereby provides and declares, That no Appointments on the Procurator, or Agents for the Church, to manage Processes for particular Synods, Presbyteries, or Ministers, shall, in Time coming, warrand the Agents to lay out any Money thereupon, except there be a special Order of a General Assembly, agreeable to the present Rules, expressly appointing them to that Effect. Fifthly, The General Assembly appoints, that 12 *l.* 10 *s.* *Sterling* Money quarterly, as the Church's Money comes in, be lodged in the Hands of one of the Agents for the Church, for defraying the said incident Charges, for which they are hereby ordered to make an Account at each General Assembly; and if any Balance shall be found due to them, the same shall be paid to them, and the Sum of 12 *l.* 10 *s.* *Sterling* further; or if the Balance that shall be found due by them shall not extend to that Sum, the said Sum shall be made up to them out of the

D

first

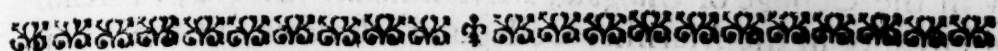
first Money that comes in, after clearing their Accompts, as said is, including this Year. And Lastly, The General Assembly appoints the Receiver of the Church's Money, in his depursing thereof in Time coming, strictly to observe the fore-said Rules ; and discharges him to make Payments in any other Manner or Order, as he will be answerable to the General Assemblies of this Church.

ACT for the right Management of the Church's public Money.

Thursday, ante meridiem, May 21st, 1719. Sess. 7th.

THE General Assembly considering how unsuitable it is for the Church to engage their Credit beyond what their Funds are able to answer ; therefore, to prevent this Inconveniency in Time coming, the General Assembly do hereby prohibit and discharge the applying of any of the said Money, toward the Payment of the Expences of Processes for Stipends, except in Parishes where Popery abounds, or such as shall be recommended both by the Presbytery and Synod to which the Parish belongs, and the Case laid before the Assembly, and their particular Order given for that Effect, before the Commencement of the Process : And the General Assembly does resolve and declare, That for hereafter no new Warrants or Orders shall be granted for Payment of any Money to any Person whatsoever, except to Preachers sent to supply in the North, for their Allowances : And they hereby strictly prohibit and discharge the Clerk of Assembly, or Sub-clerk, to write out, or the Moderator of this or subsequent Assemblies, to subscribe any Orders or Warrants, for Payment of any new Grants out of the Church's yearly Allowance, untill all former Debts, already contracted by preceeding Assemblies or Commissions, be first paid. And further, the General Assembly resolves and declares, That at no Time hereafter any Warrants for Money shall be granted, untill it be known, that there is as much in the Hands of the Receiver of the Church's Money, as will be sufficient to answer the same ; and they appoint the 7th Act of the General Assembly 1712, to be punctually observed ; and do require the Procurator for the Church, when any Demands for Money comes before the General Assembly, or Commissions thereof, to acquaint them with the State of their Funds, and read the fore-said Act *anno* 1712, and this present Act to them. And the Assembly discharges the Committee chosen by each Assembly for auditing and revising the Church's public Accompts, to propose the giving either of Money, or Précepts for Money, exceeding that Part of the Year's Allowance belonging to that Assembly, which is free
and

and unappropriated ; and appoints them to bring their Report first to the Committee for Overtures, before it be brought in to the General Assembly. And the General Assembly also appoints the said Committee for the public Accompts, to cause this present Act, and new Regulations that shall be made about Money, to be read to them yearly, and to reject all Petitions and Demands not in the Terms thereof, and to report an Account of any Breaches that shall be made therein to the Assembly.



VI.

Act anent taking a blind Man upon Trials.

Edinburgh, May 30th, 1761.



P O N reading the Minute of Yesterday, concerning the Settlement of *Kirkcudbright*, it was proposed by a Member, that before any Presbytery or Synod, shall agree to take upon Trials any blind Man, they shall first consult the General Assembly. The General Assembly having heard the said Proposal, agreed thereto, and appoint accordingly.



VII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, June 1st, 1761.



H E General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr. *John Hyndman*, one of the Ministers of *West-Kirk*, their Moderator, Dr. *Robert Hamilton*, Professor of Divinity in the University of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Goldie*, Principal of the College of

of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *James Muirison*, Principal of the new College of *St. Andrews*, Mr. *Thomas Tullideph*, Principal of the United Colleges of *St. Salvator* and *St. Leonard*, in the University of *St. Andrews*, Mr. *Neil Campbell*, Principal of the College of *Glasgow*, Dr. *Patrick Cumming*, Professor of Church History in the University of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Andrew Shaw*, Professor of Divinity in the new College of *St. Andrews*, Mr. *John Lumsden*, Professor of Divinity in the King's College of *Aberdeen*, Dr. *William Leechman*, Professor of Divinity in the College of *Glasgow*, Mr. *Alexander Gerard*, Professor of Divinity in the Maristhal College of *Aberdeen*, all the Ministers Members of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John MacPherson* at *Slate*, Mr. *Colin MacKenzie* at *Fodderty*, Mr. *John MacAulay* at *Lismore*, Mr. *James Nasmyth* at *Dalmenie*, Mr. *Andrew Plummer* at *Broughton*, Mr. *Donald MacLeod* at *Glenelg*, Mr. *John Goldie* at *Pennycuik*, Mr. *Kenneth MacAulay* at *Harris*, Mr. *John Walker* at *Glencroft*, Mr. *John Lundie* at *Oldhamstocks*, Mr. *Robert Menteith* at *Longformacus*, Mr. *John Rogers* at *Hownam*, Mr. *Alexander Duncan* at *Smalholm*, Mr. *James Lindsay* at *Lochmaben*, Mr. *David Shaw* at *Coylton*, Mr. *Robert Dawson* at *Stow*, Mr. *William Campbell* at *Lilliesleaf*, Mr. *James Williamson* at *Closetburn*, Mr. *Samuel Brown* at *Kirkmabrick*, Mr. *Henry Millar* at *Nielston*, Mr. *John Cooper* at *Lochwinnoch*, Mr. *Laurence Hill* at *Glasgow*, Mr. *James Baillie* at *Shotts*, Mr. *Duncan MacFarlane* at *Drymen*, Mr. *Archibald Lambie* at *Kilmartine*, Mr. *Archibald Campbell* at *North Knapdale*, Mr. *Richard Brown* at *Kingarth*, Mr. *Patrick Campbell* at *Kilninver*, Mr. *John Farquhar* at *Nigg*, Mr. *George-William-Algernoon Gordon* at *Tullinesle*, Mr. *Roger Moodie* at *Gartlie*, Mr. *David Rentoul* at *Elgin*, Mr. *John Touch* at *Aberlour*, Mr. *Hector MacPhail* at *Cullicudden*, Mr. *James Lautie* at *Fordyce*, Mr. *John Dounie* at *Gairloch*, Mr. *John Sutherland* at *Halkirk*, Mr. *James Morrison* at *Killlearn*, Mr. *Adam Ferguson* at *Mouline*, Mr. *Patrick Simpson* at *Chunie*, Mr. *Archibald Stevenson* at *St. Madois*, Dr. *John Ker* at *Forfar*, Mr. *Patrick Grant* at *Daviot*, Ministers; his Grace the Duke of *Athole*, the most honourable the Marquis of *Lothian*, the right honourable the Earl of *Marchmont*, the right honourable the Earl of *Leven*, the right honourable the Earl of *Breadalbane*, the right honourable the Earl of *Lauderdale*, the right honourable the Lord *Somerville*, the right honourable the Earl of *Roseberry*, the right honourable *Robert Dundas* of *Arniston*, Lord President of the Court of Session, the right honourable the Lord Justice Clerk, *Alexander Fraser* of *Strichen*, Esq; *William Grant* of *Prestongrange*, Esq; *Robert Pringle* of *Edgesfield*, Esq; *George Brown* of *Coalstoun*, Esq; *Alexander Boswell* of *Auchinleck*, Esq; *Andrew Pringle* of *Ale-*
moor,

moor, Esq; six of the Senators of the College of Justice, *Thomas Millar* of *Barskimming*, Esq; his Majesty's Advocate, Mr. *Charles Hope-Vere* of *Craigiehall*, *John Maul* of *Inverkeillor*, Esq; one of the Barons of Exchequer, *George Lind*, Esq; Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, Mr. *James Robertson* Professor of Oriental Languages in the College of *Edinburgh*, *Archibald Ingram* Merchant in *Glasgow*, *William Sands* Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, *John Paton* Bookseller there, Mr. *George Wallace* Advocate, Dr. *Matthew Stewart*, Professor of Mathematicks in the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *George Sinclair* of *Ulbster*, Mr. *John Craigie*, *Hector MacLean* of *Torloisk*, *Alexander Donaldson* Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Dr. *Robert White* of *Bennochie*, Mr. *Alexander Orr*, Clerk to the Signet, *Alexander MacMillan* of *Dunmore*, Mr. *Francis Grant* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Swinton* Advocate, Mr. *John Campbell* younger of *Stonefield*, Advocate, Mr. *Gideon Shaw* of *Laurieston*, *William Ross* Writer in *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Alexander Murray* Advocate, Mr. *Islay Campbell* Advocate, Mr. *John Muir* Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands* of *Scotland*, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and Profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty given for these Ends, according to, and in Terms of his Majesty's Grant to this Assembly. In Prosecution of which Purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists to go to such Places as they shall find, upon due Information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's Design, expressed in his Warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular Regard to such Parishes in *South-Uist*, *Small Isles*, *Glenco*, *Harris*, the Countries of *Moidart*, *Glengarie* and *Lochaber*, and the other Parishes of the Synods of *Glenelg* and *Argyle*, which the Committee shall find, by Reason of their vast Extent, the Prevalency of Popery and Ignorance, and other unhappy Circumstances, to be in the greatest Distress: And they shall take Care, that the Persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due Trial, to be properly qualified for these respective Offices, of good Abilities for the same, of a pious Life and Conversation, prudent, of undoubted Loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent Skill in the Principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish Controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the Inspection of the Presbyteries of the Bounds to which they are sent, who are to take Care that the Orders of the Committee be duly observed by them: And the Preachers are also appointed to catechize; and both they and the Catechists to instruct the People from House to House, and to visit

the Sick ; and in all their Labours among the People, to be careful to teach them the Principles and Duties of the true Christian Protestant Religion, and the Obligations they are under to Duty and Loyalty to our Sovereign King *George*, and Obedience to the Laws : and the Committee are impowered to give them such Instructions, as to their Work and Behaviour, as they shall judge meet ; which Instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular Regard, in their Proceedings, to the Regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th Day of *September* 1730, approved by subsequent Assemblies ; and to take Care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do : Particularly the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their Registers the Committee's Appointments of the Designations, Salaries, and Stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact Regard thereto in all the Letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of Certificates to them ; and to direct all their Letters, concerning Missionaries in their Bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee ; which Letters shall be signed, at the Appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof : And the Assembly does discharge any Payments to be made of the Salaries of Missionaries, except upon Receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon Certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the Time mentioned in the Receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the Purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the Appointments laid upon them : And they are to keep a Register of their Proceedings, and likewise distinct Books of Accompts how the foresaid Money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the Persons above named as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a Quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers : But it is hereby appointed, that at the quarterly Meeting of the Committee, in which the Scheme or Establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing Year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the Quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers, and the said Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at four of the Clock Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four stated Diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, except that Day shall fall to be *Saturday*,

turday, and then the Meeting shall be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the said Hour; with Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places, as they shall find most needful and convenient; and they are to keep a Correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors; and take their Advice and Assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and impowered, as they shall see Cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for Assistance and Support in carrying on the Design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do by these Presents nominate and appoint Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said Committee, and according to their Rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the Accompts of the Distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Person once employed and insert in the Scheme shall be struck out thereof for that Year, but by the *Quorum* of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in Case any Complaint shall be made against any of them on the Scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary Meeting that the same is offered, but shall ly on the Table till another Meeting; and in the mean Time, the Person complained of, and the Presbytery of the Bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such Complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just Account of the Matter, against their next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly Scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled, in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their Answers to these Letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first Meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next Year's Scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, that they shall name a Sub-committee of their Number for that Purpose, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a subsequent Meeting, which are appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible: And that the said Committee, in making up the Scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the Sum in the Grant.

VIII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, June 1st, 1761.

 H E General Assembly considering, that there are divers Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint, the Reverend Dr. John Hyndman, Minister at *Westkirk*, their Moderator: And from the Presbytery of *Chanonry* Mr. Robert Munro at *Kilmuir-wester*, Mr. Hector MacPhail at *Cullicudden*, Ministers: Mr. James Robertson Professor of Oriental Languages in the College of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tain*, Mr. Gilbert Robertson at *Kincardine*, Mr. George Balfour at *Tarbet*, Ministers: Sir John Gordon of *Invergordon*, Bart. Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dingwal*, Mr. Patrick Grant at *Urray*, Mr. Colin MacKenzie at *Fodderty*, Ministers, Mr. Albert Munro of *Coul*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr. John MacPherson at *Slate*, Mr. John Nicolson at *Portree*, Ministers; Alexander Donaldson Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Uist*, Mr. Kenneth Macaully at *Harris*, Mr. Angus MacNeil at *South-Uist*, Ministers; William Ross Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, Mr. Donald MacLeod at *Glenelg*, Mr. John Downie at *Gairloch*, Ministers; Dr. Matthew Stewart Professor of Mathematics in the College of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dornoch*, Mr. Martin MacPherson at *Golspie*, Mr. John Sutherland at *Dornoch*, Ministers, George MacKay of *Skibo*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tong*, Mr. Walter Ross at *Tong*, Mr. George Munro at *Farr*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Caithness*, Mr. Alexander Oliphant at *Bowar*, Mr. John Sutherland at *Halkirk*, Ministers; Mr. George Sinclair of *Ulbsler*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, Mr. Hugh Mowat at *Evie*, Mr. John Yule at *Kirkwall*, Ministers; Mr. Andrew Ross Factor for the Earl of *Morton*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Cairnston*, Mr. Thomas Hepburn at *Birsay*, Mr. William Nisbet at *Firth* and *Stennes*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Morton*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of

of *North-Isles*, Mr. John Scollay at *Burness*, &c. Mr. James Weir at *Rousay*, Ministers; Jerom Dennison in *Noutland* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Zetland*, Mr. John Miln at *Dunrossness*, Mr. William Mitchel at *Tingwal*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Mr. John Glen at *Edinburgh*, Mr. James Mackie at *Westkirk*, Dr. Patrick Cumming, Professor of Church History in the University of *Edinburgh*, and one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, Mr. William Aitken at *South-Leith*, Dr. William Robertson at *Edinburgh*, Mr. James Craig at *Currie*, Ministers; Sir Alexander Dick of *Priestfield*, Bailie John Nisbet, and Bailie James Shields Ruling Elders: City of *Edinburgh*, George Lind Esq; Lord Provost thereof, and Patrick Jamieson Mason, present Conveener of the Trades therein: University of *Edinburgh*, Dr. Robert Hamilton Professor of Divinity therein: Church of *Campvere*, Mr. James Yair Minister; Lord Conservator, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, Mr. James Nasmyth at *Dalmeny*, Mr. Charles Wilkie at *Ecclesmachin*, Mr. Archibald MacAulay at *Queensferry*, Mr. William Porteous at *Whitburn*, Ministers; The Right Hon. the Lord Napier, and Provost Gillies, Ruling Elders; Burgh of *Linlithgow*, Bailie Robert Clark in *Linlithgow*: Burgh of *Queensferry*, Mr. Robert Ramsay of *Blackrig* Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, Mr. Andrew Plummer at *Broughton*, Mr. Thomas MacCourtly at *Dolphington*, Ministers; Mr. Andrew Vallange of *Bigger-Burnland*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, Mr. Thomas Findlater at *Lintoun*, Mr. Alexander Adams at *Traquair*, Ministers; Mr. James Montgomery Advocate, one of his Majesty's Solicitors, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Peebles*, Mr. Alexander Murray Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, Mr. John Goldie at *Pennycook*, Mr. John Walker at *Glencroft*, Mr. William Witherpoon at *Fala*, Ministers; The Right Hon. the Lord President of the Court of Session, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, Mr. James Purdie at *Morham*, Mr. Patrick Bennerman at *Salton*, Mr. Francis Cowan at *Gladesmuir*, Ministers; Mr. John Hume of *Alison's-square*, *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Haddington*, George Brown of *Coalston* Esq; one of the Senators of the College of Justice: From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, Mr. Alexander Pyott at *Dunbar*, Mr. John Lundie at *Oldhamstocks*, Ministers; Mr. James Hamilton Surgeon in *Dunbar*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dunbar*, Robert Johnston Baxter there: From the Presbytery of *Dunfermline*, Mr. Robert Monteith at *Longformacus*, Mr. Adam Dickson at *Dunfermline*, Ministers; The Right Hon. the Earl of *Marchmont* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, Mr. George Cupples at *Swinton*, Mr. Walter Anderson at *Chirnside*, Mr. John Jolly at *Simprin*, Ministers; Sir John Stewart of *Allanbank* Bart. Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery

bytery of *Kelfo*, Mr. Thomas Pollock at *Ednam*, Mr. Thomas MacDougal at *Mackerston*, Ministers ; Mr. George Wallace Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, Mr. George Bruce at *Minto*, Mr. John Rogers at *Hownam*, Mr. William Paton at *Eckfoord*, Ministers ; Baillie Thomas Turnbull at *Minto*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Erfiltoun*, Mr. Alexander Duncan at *Smelholm*, Mr. Robert Dawson at *Stow*, Ministers ; Mr. John Tait of *Pirn*, Ruling Elder : Burgh of *Lauder*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Lauderdale* : From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr. James Hume at *Bowdean*, Mr. William Campbell at *Lilliesleaf*, Ministers ; the Right Honourable the Lord Alemoor, Ruling Elder : Burgh of *Selkirk*, Mr. Gideon Shaw of *Laurieston* : From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr. Thomas Smith at *Cummertrees*, Mr. Andrew Jaffrey at *Ruthwell*, Ministers ; Mr. Alexander Orr, Clerk to the Signet Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Langholm*, Mr. James MacGarroch at *Eskdalemuir*, Mr. Robert Petrie at *Canoby* Ministers ; Mr. John Craigie, Chamberlain to his Grace the Duke of *Buccleugh*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr. John Nimmo at *Johnston*, Mr. William Scot at *Kirkpatrick juxta*, Mr. James Lindsay at *Lochmaben*, Ministers ; Mr. William Johnston Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr. James Williamson at *Clofeburn*, Mr. Robert Aitken at *Mortoun*, Ministers ; Mr. Thomas Gracie in *Minniavie*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr. George Duncan at *Lochbrutton*, Mr. Robert MacMoline at *Kirkpatrick-Durham*, Mr. James Finnan at *Colvend*, Ministers ; Mr. Andrew Crosbie Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. John MacNaught at *Buttle*, Mr. Nathaniel MacKie at *Crossmichael*, Mr. William MacKie at *Balmaclellan*, Ministers ; William Halliday in *Barlochay* Ruling Elder : Burgh of *Kirkcudbright*, Baillie David Halliday : From the Presbytery of *Wigton*, Mr. John Hart at *Kirkinner*, Mr. Samuel Brown at *Kirkmabrick* Ministers : John Hathorn Esq; of *Overairies*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Stranrawer*, Mr. George Blair at *Stanrawer*, Mr. James MacCulloch at *Kirkcolm*, Ministers : From the Presbytery of *Air*, Mr. George Reid at *Ochiltree*, Mr. Hugh Hamilton at *Girvan*, Mr. David Shaw at *Coyltoun*, Mr. William Auld at *Machline*, Dr. James MacKnight at *Maybole*, Ministers : The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, and the Right Honourable the Lord *Auchinleck*, Ruling Elders : Burgh of *Air*, John Muir Writer to the Signet : From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr. Andrew MacVey at *Dreghorn*, Mr. James Wodrow at *Stevenston*, Mr. Thomas Maxwell at *Stewartoun* Ministers ; Archibald Stevenson of *Montgreenan* Esq; Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Paisley*, Mr. Henry Millar at *Nielstoun*, Mr. John Fleming

Fleming at *Kilmalcolm*, Mr. John Cooper at *Lochwinnoch*, Mr. James Hamilton at *Abbey Parish of Paisley*, Ministers; Mr. Isla Campbell, and Mr. Walter Stewart Advocates, Ruling Elders: Burgh of *Renfrew*, Provost William Sommerville: From the Presbytery of *Hamiltoun*, Mr. Thomas Cleland at *Cambusneath*, Mr. James Baillie at *Shotts*, Mr. James Morehead at *Stonehouse*, Ministers: Mr. William Gilmour, Probationer, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lanerk*, Mr. James Gray at *Lanerk*, Mr. John Christie at *Carnwath*, Mr. John Kingan at *Crawford*, Ministers; Sir George Lockhart of *Carstairs*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Lanerk*, James Dewar of *Vogrie Esq*; From the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, Mr. Laurence Hill at *Barony parish of Glasgow*, Mr. Colin Campbell at *Eggleholm*, Mr. John Hamilton at *Cathcart*, Ministers, Archibald Ingram present Dean of Guild of *Glasgow*, Ruling Elder: City of *Glasgow*, Baillie Thomas Napier: University of *Glasgow*, Mr. Alexander Wilson Professor of practical Astronomy therein: From the Presbytery of *Dumbarton*, Mr. Duncan MacFarlane at *Drymen*, Mr. James Morison at *Killlearn*, Mr. Hugh Gourlie at *Balfren*, Ministers; Sir James Colquhoun of *Luss*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dumbarton*, James Smollet Esq; of *Bonhill*: From the Presbytery of *Dunoon*, Mr. Dugald Allan at *Innerchallion*, Mr. Richard Brown at *Kingarth*, Ministers: Mr. William Sands Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr. William Mowat at *Gigha*, Mr. Niel MacLeod at *Jura*; Ministers; Mr. Alexander MacMillan of *Dunmore* Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Inveraray*, Mr. Archibald Lambie at *Kilmartine*, Mr. Archibald Campbell at *North-Knapdale*: Ministers; William Wilson Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lorn*, Mr. John MacAulay at *Lismore*, Mr. Patrick Campbell at *Kilninver*, Ministers; Mr. John Campbell younger of *Stonefield* Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Mull*, Mr. Alexander MacLean at *Kilninian*, Mr. Niel MacLeod at *Kilfinnickan*, Ministers; Hector MacLean of *Torloisk*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr. Adam Ferguson at *Moulin*, Mr. Patrick Simpson at *Clunie*, Mr. James Bishop at *Kinclaven*, Mr. James Smith at *Rattray*, Ministers; his Grace the Duke of *Atbole*, and the Right honourable the Earl of *Breadalbine*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Perth*, Mr. John Faichney at *Collace*, Mr. David Bennerman at *St. Martin's*, Mr. Archibald Stevenson at *St. Madois*, Mr. James Scot at *Kinfauns*, Ministers; Mr. John Belches of *Innermay*, and Mr. John Swinton junior Advocates, Ruling Elders; Burgh of *Perth*, William Gray Esq; present Provost thereof: From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr. John Duncan

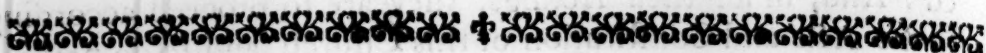
Duncan at *Alva*, Mr. John Muschet at *Stirling*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord Justice Clerk, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr. Andrew Ramsay at *Madderty*, Mr. James Scot at *Muthill*, Mr. James Reid at *Trinity-Gask*, Ministers; John Caw in *Crieff*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, Mr. James Stewart at *Calender*, Mr. John Robertson at *Dumblane*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Dumfermline*, Mr. Thomas Fernie at *Dumfermline*, Mr. Robert Rolland at *Culross*, Mr. James Reid at *Beath*, Ministers; Sir George Preston of *Valleyfield* Bart. Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldie*, Dr. Hary Spense at *Weems*, Mr. Patrick Muirhead at *Dysart*, Mr. Thomas Webster at *Kinghorn*, Ministers; Mr. Gilbert Elliot Advocate, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Kirkcaldie*, John Fordice of *Aytoun* Esq; Burgh of *Kinghorn*, Dr. Robert White of *Bennochie*: From the Presbytery of *Coupar*, Mr. James Bruce at *Dunbog*, Mr. George Lion at *Strathmiglo*, Mr. William Walker at *Colleslie*, Mr. John Trotter at *Ceres*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Leven*, and Andrew Barclay of *Pitaop*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*, Mr. John Hill at *St. Andrews*, Mr. Joseph Pitcairn at *Carnbee*, Mr. William Beat at *Killrennie*, Mr. Robert Dalgleish at *Ferry Parton-Craig*, Ministers; Dr. George Haddow Professor of Hebrew, in the New College in *St. Andrews*, and Mr. John MacNaughton Collector of his Majesty's Customs at *Anstruther Easter*, Ruling Elders: University of *St. Andrews*, Mr. Thomas Tullideph Principal of the united College of *St. Saviour* and *St. Leonard* in the said University: Burgh of *Crail*, Mr. William Johnston Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Meigle*, Mr. Alexander Scot at *Meigle*, Mr. Alexander Dun at *Bendockie*, Mr. James Ogilvie at *Effie* and *Nevay*, Ministers; Mr. Patrick Alison at *Newhall*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forfar*, Dr. John Ker at *Forfar*, Mr. George Ogilvie at *Cortachy*, Ministers; Mr. George Dempster of *Dunnichen* Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr. John Stewart at *Tealing*, Mr. Thomas Randal at *Inchtute*, Mr. James Adamson at *Abernyte*, Ministers; Bailie John Jobson, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dundee*, Provost Patrick Yeaman: From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothwick*, Mr. William Dale at *Barrie*, Mr. William Bell at *Aberbrothwick*, Ministers; John Maul of *Inverkeillor* Esq; one of the Barons of Exchequer, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Brechine*, Mr. William Cruden at *Logie*, Mr. Andrew Bruce at *Brechine*, Mr. James Paton at *Craig*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Northesk*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Montrose*, Baillie Lauchlan Morison: From the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, Mr. John Lumfden Professor

fessor of Divinity in the King's College of *Aberdeen*, Mr. James Nicolson at *Banchory Devonick*, Mr. John Farquhar at *Nigg*, Mr. Alexander Gerard Professor of Divinity in the Marishall College of *Aberdeen*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord *Preston-grange*, and John Duncan late Provost of *Aberdeen*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Kincardinoniel*, Mr. William Abel at *Kincardinoniel*, Mr. Murdoch MacLennan at *Crathie*, Mr. John Ogilvie at *Midmar*, Ministers; Sir Arthur Forbes of *Craigievar* Bart. Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Alford*, Mr. William Duff at *Glenbucket*, Mr. James MacWilliam at *Forbes*, Mr. George-William-Algernoon Gordon at *Tullinestie*, Ministers; Mr. John Duncan Schoolmaster at *Auchindore*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Garioch*, Mr. Alexander Simpson at *Moneymusk*, Mr. Alexander Gordon at *Kintore*, Mr. George Ogilvie at *Premnay*, Ministers; Mr. David Dalrymple Advocate, Procurator for the Church, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Deer*, Mr. John Brown at *Longside*, Mr. William Taylor at *New Deer*, Mr. Robert Garden at *St. Fergus*, Ministers; William Keith in *Tillakeera*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Fordice*, Mr. Walter Morrison at *Deskford*, Mr. James Lautie at *Fordice*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord *Edgefield*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Cullen*, Mr. Charles Hope-Weir: From the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, Mr. Alexander Chalmers at *Cairnie*, Mr. Roger Moodie at *Garthie*, Ministers: James Smith in *Craigiehead*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, Mr. John Touch at *Aberlour*, Mr. John Grant at *Dundurcus*, Ministers; William Stewart in *Aberlour*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abernethy*, Mr. William Grant at *Abernethy*, Mr. William Gordon at *Alvie*, Ministers; Dr. Gregory Grant Physician at *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Elgine*, Mr. James Spense at *Urquhart*, Mr. David Rentoul at *Elgine*, Ministers; Bailie Robert Grant Merchant in *Elgine*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Inverness*, Mr. John Grant at *Dores*, Mr. Patrick Grant at *Daviot*, Ministers; Bailie James Frazer Merchant in *Inverness*, Ruling Elder: With his Grace the Duke of Argyle, the most Honourable the Marquis of *Tweeddale*, the most Honourable the Marquis of *Lothian*, Sir Gilbert Elliot of *Minto*, Alexander Frazer of *Strichen* Esq; and James Veitch of *Elliock* Esq; three of the Senators of the College of Justice, Ruling Elders: To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effects after-mentioned; with Power to the said Commissioners or their Quorum, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the

Dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; and thereafter, the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likeways, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their Quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion; that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force 'till disproven by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ or Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon Application to them for that End: Likeways to take Care that the Impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, be correct; and give Directions about printing

printing the same. And the said Commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a Correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands and Islands*, for suppressing Popery and Superstition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in these Parts, and give Assistance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same; declaring, that in, and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the Acts of the General Assemblies 1712, and 1719, respecting the Application of the public Money, which two Acts are printed among the Acts of this Assembly. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly, held in the Year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a Quorum, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet on any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meetings of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same: And the Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting, to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the Sentences of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent Meetings, as has been sometimes the Practice; but shall allow the same to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct, and are hereby

hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further empower and direct the said Commission, to make due Application to the King and Parliament, for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable Opportunity for so doing shall occur during the Subsistence of this Commission. And the General Assembly do enjoin their Commission, that in passing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly 1736.



IX.

Act appointing the Meetings of the Synod of Ross.

Edinburgh, June 1st, 1761.

UPON the Motion of a Member from the Synod of Ross, the General Assembly appoints that Synod to have their Meetings henceforth upon the third *Tuesday* of *April*.



X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, June 1st, 1761.



THE next General Assembly of this National Church, is appointed to be held in this Place, upon the 3d *Thursday* of *May* next, being the twentieth Day of that Month, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and sixty two.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

Overture

Overture for preventing Dilapidation of Stipends, &c.

Edinburgh, May 25th, 1761.



THE following Overture for preventing the Dilapidation of Stipends, was transmitted from the Committee for Overtures, *viz.* The General Assembly injoin the several Presbyteries of this Church, to take an exact Account on the Place, of the Extent of the Stipend, Glebe, Grass, and other Emoluments belonging to every Minister within their Bounds, and record the same with Accuracy in the Presbytery Books, so that every succeeding Incumbent may see at once what he is intitled to, and Presbyteries may be the better able to give a Check to any Dilapidations which may be attempted: Which Overture being read, the General Assembly agreed to transmit the same to the Consideration of the several Presbyteries, with this Addition, That where a Minister is possessed of more Glebes than one, and has been in Use of setting the Glebe or Glebes most remote from his Manse, that such Glebe or Glebes shall, in all Time coming, after the Boundary and Limits thereof are ascertained, as above directed, be let only by Tack, in which the Extent and Marches thereof shall be particularly set forth, and the same lodged with the Presbytery Clerk.

Overture anent sending up Opinions on Overtures transmitted by the Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 27th, 1761.



THE following Overture was transmitted from the Committee for Overtures, *viz.* That considering how dilatory Presbyteries are, in sending up their Opinions on Overtures transmitted by the Assembly, which shows, that all preceeding Regulations to inforce a due Return have been ineffectual; in order therefore to remedy this in
H Time

Time coming, that it should be enacted, That in all Time coming, no Commissions from any Presbytery to their Representatives in Assembly shall be sustained, unless it bears the following Clause, *viz.* The Presbytery of _____ having considered the Overtures transmitted by last Assembly, their Answer to which is hereto subjoined, proceeded to the Election, &c. or, in Case there be no Overtures transmitted, then the Form to be, There being no Overtures transmitted by last Assembly, the Presbytery of _____ proceeded, &c. The General Assembly, having heard the said Overture read, agreed to transmit the same to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Opinion thereon to the next Assembly; with Certification, that if they fail therein, that Assembly may take up the Overture, and pass it into a Law as they see Cause.

TABLE

TABLE of the printed Acts of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1761.

	Page.
I. <i>THE King's Commission to Charles Lord Cathcart, produced, and ordered to be recorded.</i>	3
II. <i>The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.</i>	5
III. <i>The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.</i>	7
IV. <i>The General Assembly's Address to the King, on his Accession to the Throne of these Realms.</i>	10
V. <i>The Acts of the General Assemblies 1712 and 1719, respecting the public Money, ordered to be reprinted with the Acts of this Assembly.</i>	12
VI. <i>Act anent taking a blind Man upon Trials.</i>	15
VII. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.</i>	Ibid.
VIII. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.</i>	20
IX. <i>Act appointing the Meetings of the Synod of Ross.</i>	28
X. <i>Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.</i>	Ibid.
<i>Overture for preventing Dilapidation of Stipends.</i>	29
<i>Overture anent sending up Opinions on Overtures transmitted by the Assembly.</i>	Ibid.

Index or Abridgment

O F T H E

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1761, which are not printed at full Length.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr. *Robert Hamilton*, Professor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh*, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene in the Assembly House, and the Reverend Dr. *John Hyndman*, one of the Ministers of *West-kirk*, being chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. May 21st, *Sess. 1st*.

- A Representation by the Lord Advocate bearing, That a Commission from his Majesty had come down, appointing a Noble Person now in *Edinburgh*, to be his Majesty's Commissioner in this General Assembly; but the Commission being addressed in the usual Stile, "to the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal," and that Office being now vacant, and the late Deputy-keeper not thinking himself authorised to append the Seal to any Writ or Commission, without a special Warrant for that Purpose; by these Accidents it happened, that his Majesty's gracious Intention of being present by his Commissioner in this first Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, since his happy Accession to the Throne, could not take Place in the first Day of their Meeting; but as an Express had been dispatched to *London*, in order to obviate this Stop to the expeding his Majesty's Commission, there was no Room to doubt, but that upon the Return of that Express, his Majesty's Commissioner would be enabled to meet with this Assembly, which till his Commission was certified under the Great Seal, he was not authorised to do, the said Representation heard, and the Assembly resolved at this Time, to proceed to the Appointment of the usual Committees. *Ibid.*
- A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents from the Diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach next Lord's Day in the New Church before the General Assembly, receiving in
Lifts

I N D E X, 1761.

Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded, and of Students of Divinity at the several Universities. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures named. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals named. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer. *May 22d. Sess. 2.*

The Act 7th of the Assembly 1718, for the better Dispatch of the Business of Assembly, read, and the Observation thereof enjoined. *Ibid.*

Ministers named to preach before the General Assembly on *Sabbath* next. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for Overtures bearing, that there was laid before them, a Representation to the Assembly by the Presbytery of *Garioch*, with a Letter signed by their Moderator, concerning a Faction 'twixt Mr. *Urquhart* of *Meldrum*, Patron of the Parish of *Meldrum*, and Mr. *John Lickly* present Minister there, and transmitting the same to the Assembly, with the Opinion that the Procurator and Agent for the Church should be appointed to appear as Defenders for Mr. *Lickly*, in case the Patron shall pursue him on his Letter mentioned in the said Representation, brought in, and the Consideration thereof delayed till *Monday* next. *May 23d Sess. 3.*

An Overture for preventing the Dilapidation of Stipends brought in from the Committee for Overtures, and delayed till *Monday* next. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, audite the Procurator and Agent's Accompts, consider the State of the publick Money, and prepare Overtures about the same. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, &c. *Ibid.*

Committees named for revising the Synod Books of *Pife*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, and *Moray*. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Ross*, *Glenelg*, *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Argyle*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Aberdeen*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland* absent, and resolved that the Reasons thereof be enquired into. *Ibid.*

The Committee for Overtures appointed to receive in from the several Members, any Instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereupon to the Assembly. *Ibid.*

All Petitions for any Share of the publick Money, appointed to be laid before the Committee on the publick Accompts. *Ibid.*

I N D E X. 1761.

The Report of the Ministers named by last Assembly to visit the Highlands, &c. brought in and read, and a Committee named to consider the same and prepare an Overture therefrom, for bringing the Design of the Visitation into Execution,-- The Visitors thanked for their Care and Diligence in executing the Commission given to them,--Such of the Ministers from the Highlands and North as were present, thanked for their Kindness and Assistance to the Visitors in the Course of their Visitation.--A Committee named to wait of the Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs, and Lord *George Beauclerk* Commander in Chief, and return the Assembly's most hearty Thanks to the Commissioners for the Favour conferred by them on the Visitors, by ordering them the Use of one of his Majesty's Wherries as they had Occasion for it; and to Lord *George Beauclerk* for the Civilities shown the Visitors by the Officers of the Army, in Consequence of Letters they received from his Lordship. *Ibid.*

A Recommendation by the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, in Favours of Mr. *James MacWilliam* Minister of the united Parishes of *Forbes* and *Kearn*, bearing the Grievances he labours under, by Reason of Lady *Forbes's* detaining his Steward from him, on Account of her having prevailed before the House of Peers, in a Declarator of her Right of Patronage of the said Parish, which was claimed and formerly used by Lord *Forbes*, who presented Mr. *MacWilliam* thereto, in consequence of which, and of an Act of Assembly, he was admitted Minister there, brought in, and a Committee named to wait of Lady *Forbes*, and endeavour to get the Difference 'twixt her and Mr. *MacWilliam* settled in an amicable Manner, and to report to the Commission in *November* next. *May 25th Sess. 4.*

The Representation and Letter from the Presbytery of *Garioch*, mentioned in the Minutes of the twenty-third current, relating to a simoniacal Paction 'twixt Mr. *Urquhart* of *Meldrum* Patron of the Parish of *Meldrum*, and Mr. *John Lickly* Minister of that Parish, who, before he was settled therein as Assistant and Successor to his Father, had granted an obligatory Letter for 50 *l. Sterl.* to the Patron, payable two Years after Mr. *Lickly's* Father's Death, and which Sum the Patron is now claiming Payment of, read, with the Opinion of the Committee for Overtures thereon, and the Procurator and Agent for the Church appointed, at the public Charge, to appear in Defence of Mr. *Lickly*, in case the Patron shall pursue him for Payment of the said 50 *l. Ibid.*

Overture for preventing the Dilapidation of Stipends. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to revise the Synod Book of *Merse* and *Teviotdale.* *Ibid.*

The

I N D E X. 1761.

The King's Commission to *Charles Lord Cathcart*, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person in this Assembly, read and recorded. *May 26th Sess. 5.*

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The Commissioner's Speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's Speech in Return thereto. *Ibid.*

The Royal Warrant for 1000 *l.* granted this Year by his Majesty, for Encouragement of Itinerant Preachers and Catechists, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for answering the King's most Gracious Letter, and preparing the Draught of an Address to his Majesty on his Accession to the Throne of these Realms. *Ibid.*

An Appeal by the Session of *Old Grey-friars Church* in *Edinburgh*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, affirming a Judgment of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, translating the Reverend Dr. *William Robertson*, from the *Lady Yester's Kirk* to the *Old Grey-friars Kirk*, with the proviso, that he continue in *Lady Yester's Kirk* till a Minister is called to supply the Vacancy in the City, heard, and the said Sentences of the Synod and Presbytery affirmed *Ibid.*

A Petition for the established Schoolmasters in *Scotland*, praying for a general Collection, to enable them to make Application to the Legislature for establishing a Fund for a small Provision to their Widows, brought in, and the Petitioners appointed first to lay their Plan before the Members learned in the Law, and also before those concerned in the Management of the Widows Scheme, that they may report their Opinion thereon to the Assembly. *Ibid.*

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner on *Sabbath* next, *May 27th Sess. 6.*

The Draught of an Answer, to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in and approved. *Ibid.*

The Draught of an Address to his Majesty on his Accession to the Throne of these Realms brought in and approved; and the Moderator signified to the Assembly, that he had the Commands of his Grace the King's Commissioner to acquaint them, that his Grace would chearfully transmit the said Answer and Address to his Majesty. *Ibid.*

Overture anent sending up Opinions on Overtures transmitted by the Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Book, brought in and read, and the Consideration thereof delayed till tomorrow. *Ibid.*

An Appeal by Mr. *John Witherspoon*, Minister at *Paisley*, from a Sen-

I N D E X 1761.

a Sentence of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Ayr*, in *October* last, disapproving of a Plan agreed to by the Magistrates and Kirk-Session, for uniting the Offices of English-Schoolmaster and Session-Clerk in the Town and Parish of *Paisley*; with an Appeal by *William Adie*, who, on the 12th of *August* last, had been elected by the Kirk-Session of *Paisley* to be their Clerk in the *interim*, from a Sentence of the said Session past on the 15th current, refusing to admit him to his said Office, notwithstanding of the Synod's Recommendation to them, of the 14th of *April* last, and his several Applications for that Purpose, heard; the Decreet of Erection of this Parish, vesting the Right of chusing the Session-clerk in the Magistrates, produced at the Bar, the Decerniture thereon read; and, in Respect of the said Decreet of Erection, the Assembly find, that they cannot disapprove of the Conduct of the Session, in approving the Plan of Accommodation given in by the Town Council, and that there is nothing in it injurious to the Rights of the Kirk-Session; and therefore the Sentence of the Synod, in *October* last, reversed, the Election of Mr. *Adie* as interim Clerk sustained, and the Session of *Paisley* ordained to admit him accordingly. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Book, containing their Remarks on the Commission's giving 300 *l.* to the Commissioners sent to *London* with the Address to his Majesty; 200 *l.* to the Reverend Dr. *Robert Dick*, to indemnify him of the Expence he was put to, both before the Court of Session and the House of Peers, in defending his Right to the Stipend of *Lanerk*; and 30 *l.* to Mr. *James MacWilliam*, Minister at *Forbes*, for defraying the Expence of a Process with Lady *Forbes*, who refuses Payment of his Stipend, read; the Commission found to have exceeded their Powers in disposing of the several Sums ordered by them out of the public Funds of the Church, and an Appointment, that no Money be issued in Virtue of these Orders; leaving it to the Commissioners sent to *London*, and others concerned, to apply to the Assembly in common Form. *May* 28th *Sess.* 7.

An Appeal by the United College of *St. Salvator* and *St. Leonard* in *St. Andrews*, Patrons of the Parish of *Kilmeny*, and who granted their Presentation to Mr. *William Gib*, Probationer, to be Minister of that Parish, from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Coupar*, finding that there was no such Call to Mr. *Gib* from the Parish of *Kilmeny* as the Laws of the Church do require, and that it was not competent to them, as an inferior Judicatory, to do what was contrary to the Rules

Rules of the Church, and therefore referring the whole Cause to this Assembly, heard; The Presentat on to Mr. *William Gib* to be Minister of the Parish of *Kilmeny* sustained and concurred with; and the Presbytery of *Coupar*, appointed to proceed to his Trials and Settlement, as Minister of that Parish. *Ibid.*

The Commission impowered to take in, cognosce, and finally determine in any Reference, Appeal, or Complaint that shall regularly be brought before them, relating to the Settlement of the Parish of *Kilmeny*. *Ibid.*

The Acts of the Assemblies 1712 and 1719, respecting the public Money, appointed to be reprinted with the Acts of this Assembly, and the Instructions to the Commission to contain a particular Appointment on them to observe these Acts. *May 29th Sess. 8th.*

A Petition by the Commissioners sent to *London*, by the Commission in *November*, to wait of his Majesty, with the Commission's Address; with a Petition by the Reverend Dr. *Robert Dick*; and a Petition by Mr. *James MacWilliam*, Minister at *Forbes*, with several other Petitions, for a Share of the public Money, brought in, and transmitted to the Committee on the public Accompts; and they appointed to report their Opinion thereon to the Assembly at their next Diet. *Ibid.*

An Appeal by the Agent for the Crown, and Mr. *Thomas Blacklock*, Probationer, presented by his Majesty to be Minister of the Town and Parish of *Kirkcudbright*, and by the Right Honourable the Earl of *Selkirk*, and others of the said Parish, Adherers to his Majesty's Presentee, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Galloway*, referring to this Assembly, for Decision, a Cause brought before them by Reference from the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, relating to the Settlement of the said Town and Parish, with the Reference by the Synod of the Cause to the Assembly for Decision, brought in; the Cause heard upon the footing of the Synod's Reference, and the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright* appointed to moderate in a Call to Mr. *Thomas Blacklock*, Probationer, and proceed to his Trials and Settlement, as Minister of the Town and Parish of *Kirkcudbright*. *Ibid.*

The Commission impowered to take in, cognosce, and finally determine in any Reference, Appeal, or Complaint that shall regularly be brought before them, relating to the Settlement of the Town and Parish of *Kirkcudbright*. *Ibid.*

The Members from the several Synods appointed to meet among themselves, in order to bring in a List of the Nominators of the Commission, according to the 6th Act of Assembly 1705. *Ibid.*

- Aet anent taking a blind Man upon Trials, *May 30th Sess. 9th.*
 The Report of the Trustees of the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows &c. brought in, and ordered to ly on the Table, till another Diet. *Ibid.*
- The Report of the foresaid Trustees, bearing their having made Choice of Mr. *Alexander Stevenson* to be their Clerk, in Place of Mr. *Alexander Tait*, who, being named as one of the principal Clerks of Session, had resigned his Office as Clerk to the Trustees, heard; and their Choice of Mr. *Stevenson* to be their Clerk approven of. *Ibid.*
- The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Book given in and read; the Commission's Conduct, excepting what concerns their Disposal of the public Money, approven of; the Assembly's Thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission from the Chair, for their Faithfulness and Diligence in the Affairs committed to them, and their Book ordered to be attested. *Ibid.*
- The Accompts of the Procurator, Agent and Printer for the Church, with the Report of the Committee on the public Accompts thereon, brought in, and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*
- The Report of the Committee, for considering the Petitions for a Share of the public money, given in, and read.---
- The Sum of 300 *l.* Sterling agreed to be paid to the Commissioners, sent by the Commission in *November* to *London* with the Address to his Majesty, with the Interest thereof from the Time of their setting about the Execution of their Commission, and the Commissioners thanked from the Chair for their Care in executing their Commission. *Ibid.*
- The sum of 200 *l.* Sterling, agreed to be paid to Dr. *Robert Dick* to indemnify him of the Expence he was put to, both before the Court of Session and House of Peers, in defending his Right to the Stipend of *Lanerk*, with Interest thereof from the Date of the Decree of the House of Peers in that Cause. *Ibid.*
- The Sum of 35 *l.* Sterling agreed to be paid to Mr. *James Mac-William* Minister at *Forbes*, for defraying the Expence of a Process with Lady *Forbes*, anent the Payment of his Stipend. *Ibid.*
- A Petition of Mr. *William Porteous* Minister at *Whitburn*, praying for a Share of the public Money to enable him to carry on a Process, depending against his Heretors, anent the Payment of his Stipend, read and ordered to lye on the Table; it being understood that, if he fail in the Process, he shall be refunded of his Expence; and if he prevail, that he shall have no Claim upon the public Money for the defraying of his Charges

I N D E X 1761.

Charges ; and the Procurator and Agent for the Church appointed to appear for Mr. *Porteous* in the said Process. *Ibid*
 The Procurator and Agent for the Church appointed to follow out an Action for recovering Payment of Stipends to Mr. *Donald MacLeod*, Minister at *Glenelg* ; and a Sum, not exceeding 20*l.* of Sterling, agreed to be given for defraying the Expence of such Action. *Ibid.*

A Sum not exceeding 20*l.* Sterling, agreed to be given to Mr. *John Farquhar*, Minister at *Nigg*, for defraying the Expence of a Process of Augmentation of his Stipend. *Ibid.*

The Agent for the Church appointed, at the public Charge, to extract a Decreet of Modification, obtained at the Instance of Mr. *John Reid*, Minister at *Orphir*. *Ibid.*

The Sum of 20*l.* Sterling agreed to be paid to Mr. *George Ogilvie*, Minister at *Premnay*, to indemnify him of the Expence depurged in obtaining an Augmentation to his Stipend. *Ibid.*

Four other Petitions for a Share of the public money produced and referred to the Committee for Overtures, that they may report their Opinion thereon. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty Register, bearing their Opinion, that more Students of Divinity should have been employed as Catechists in the Western *Highlands* and *Islands* : and that, in the future Management of the Fund, the Managers be directed to employ Preachers and Catechists, in such places as are now indisputably allowed to be in the greatest Distress, without Regard to the Places wherein it was or was not employed in time past ; brought in and read : The Consideration thereof remitted to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty this Year, and the Book ordered to be attested. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee, named to consider the Report of the Visitors of the *Highlands &c.* given in, bearing their having made out an Abstract of that Report, shewing the Substance of it at one View.---That they had also added to that Report such Information, as had been given in by Members of this Assembly, relative to Places in the *Highlands*, which the Visitors were not instructed to visit, but which seem to require the same Attention with the Places visited ; and upon the whole the Committee overtur'd, that from the said Report it appears necessary, 1^{mo} That there should be about 40 new Erections at the Places, or in the Parishes specified in the said Report and Abstract thereof, with Competent Stipends, together with a proper Church, Manse, and Glebe.---2^{do}, That there should be a parochial School at each of the Places of new Erection, with a suitable Salary to each Schoolmaster.---3^{tio}, That besides these parochial

I N D E X 1761.

chial Schools, there ought to be erected five Schools of a higher Kind, for teaching the dead Languages, together with Arithmetick, Writing, and other Branches of Literature, with a legal Salary ; and that these Schools should be erected at the following places, *viz.* one at *Arros* in *Mull*, in the Shire of *Argyle*, one at *North-Uist* in the Shire of *Inverness*, one in the Isle of *Skye* in the same Shire, one at *Fort-Augustus* in the same Shire, and one at *Tarbet* in *Argyle* Shire,---4^{to}, That a Copy of the said Report and Abstract should be put into the Hands of his Majesty's Commissioner, and that the Assembly should desire of his Grace to lay the same before his Majesty for his Royal Consideration. 5^{to}, That in the meat time the Assembly should appoint a general Collection through *Scotland*, for Maintenance of Students having the Galick or Highland Language. The General Assembly, having heard the foresaid Report and Opinion of their Committee, approved thereof, and appointed accordingly ; and the Moderator in Name of the Assembly represented their humble Request, as contained in the said Report, to his Grace the King's Commissioner, who was pleased to undertake to lay the Report of the Visitors, and Abstract thereof before his Majesty. *Ibid.*

A List of the Members from the several Synods brought in, and appointed as a Committee to name the Members of the Commission of this Assembly and prepare Instructions to them. *Ibid.*

An appeal by the Right Honourable the Earl of *Dundonald*, Patron of the Parish of *Monktoun*, and of the Heretors and others Concurrers with his Presentation, to Mr. *John Cunningham* to be Minister of the said Parish of *Monktoun*, from a Judgment of the Presbytery of *Air*, rejecting his Lordships Presentation in Favour of Mr. *Cunningham* ; because, from their Minutes it appeared to them, that the six Months allowed by Law to Patrons for presenting to vacant Parishes were elapsed, before the giving in of the said Presentation ; and finding that the Right of Settlement was fallen into their own Hands *tanquam jure devoluto* ; Called : And, in consideration of the Importance of the Cause, and the Influence it may have upon the future Deliberations of Assemblies in the Settlement of Parishes, the Procurator for the Church authorised and appointed to raise a Declarator against the Patron, to have it found, and declared, that the Right of Presentation *hac vice* has fallen into the Hands of the Presbytery *jure devoluto*, and the Agent for the Church to issue the necessary Expence for this Purpose; and the Cause referred to the Commission, with Power to them, after a Decision is given in the Process of Declarator by the Court of Session, to cognosce and

and finally determine therein: And also to judge, and finally determine in any future References and Appeals, that shall be regularly brought before them thereanent. *Ibid.*

The Commissioners, sent to *London* to wait of his Majesty with the Address by the Commission in *November*, appointed to give in their Report to the Commission of this Assembly, to be kept in *retentis*. *June 1st Sess. ult.*

The Petition for the established Schoolmasters referred to the Commission of this Assembly, that they may prepare an Opinion thereon, to be laid before next Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for Overtures, proceeding upon the Report of the Committee on the public Accompts and other papers laid before them, given in and read. *Ibid.*

All Collections appointed by the Assembly for the future, ordered to be burdened with the Expence attending these Collections. *Ibid.*

All the Expence attending the Management of the Royal Bounty, such as the Cashier and his Clerk's *salaries* amounting to 35 *l. Sterl.* appointed to be paid out of the Royal Bounty itself, and not out of the Funds of the Church. *Ibid.*

The Sum of 20 *l. Sterl.* ordered to be paid to Mr. *William Dall* Minister at *Barry*, to indemnify him of the expence depursed in obtaining an Augmentation to his Stipend, and of a Process against one of his Heretors about his Grass. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agent for the Church appointed, at the public Charge to carry on the necessary Process for an Addition to the Stipend of the Minister of *Glasserie*. *Ibid.*

All claims for *viaticums* dismissed, and no *viaticums* allowed this Year to the Commissioners claiming the same. *Ibid.*

Two Overtures, transmitted from the Committee for Overtures, respecting the Offices of Agent and Sub-clerk, read and dismissed. *Ibid.*

The Draught of a Commission, and Instructions to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty this Year, brought in and approved. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission, and drawing Instructions to them, brought in and approved. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a State of the Fund under their Management, and an Account of their Proceedings since last Assembly, reproduced, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that Purpose. *Ibid.*

The following Causes depending before the Commission of last Assembly, and not determined by them, are referred to the

I N D E X. 1761.

Commission of this Assembly, *viz.* An Overture anent the Time that Students shall attend the Colleges of Philosophy and Divinity, in order to their being admitted to Trials for being licensed as Probationers.---To prepare an Overture anent the Right and Power of ordained Assistants and Successors to old and infirm Ministers.--To prepare an Overture anent repealing the 13th Act of the Assembly 1732, so far as to make it lawful for Presbyteries, not only to take Tryals and serve the Edict, but to proceed to the Ordination or Admission, notwithstanding of any Appeal to the contrary, in such Cases only where the Opposition is small,---An Overture anent the Execution of Sentences of the supreme Courts.--To draw Rules stating the Method of Procedure in Causes before the Assembly.---To consider the power of Kirk-sessions in the Management of the Poors Money.--To consider a Reference from the Synod of *Glasgow and Air*, anent the Session of *Cambuslang*. *Ibid.*

Act approving of Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, his Intromissions with his Majesty's Allowance for defraying the publick Charges of the Church, for the Terms of *Lady-day, Midsummer, Michaelmas* and *Christmas* 1760, and appointing that the Balance of 92*l.* 16*s.* 0. $\frac{1}{3}$ *d.* *Sterl.* in his Hands, be charged in his next Accompt. *Ibid.*

Act approving of the Accompt of *James Edmonston* Agent for the Church, and Sub-clerk to the General Assembly, and appointing that he have Credit in his next Accompt, for the Balance of 8*l.* 6*s.* *Sterl.* due to him. *Ibid.*

Order for Payment of an Accompt due to the Printer for the Church, amounting to 30*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* *Sterling*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to cognosce, and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in two Appeals; the one by *John Steven* one of the Elders of the North Parish of *Glasgow*, and the other by the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, from Sentences pronounced by the Synod of *Glasgow and Air*, in a Process against the said *John Steven*, respecting his embezzling of the Poors Money. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to cognosce, and finally determine, as they think fit, in a Reference from the Synod of *Dumfries*, concerning *James Ballantyne* in *Priesthoup* charged with being guilty of Adultery. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to all such Ministers as judge, from the Circumstances and Inclinations of their People, that it will be agreeable to them, to have an Opportunity of contributing for the Relief and Support of the Reformed Church in *Saarbruck*; to make a Collection for that Purpose: The Ministers within the Bounds of the Synod of *Lothian and Tweddale*, to make the Collection on the 4th Sabbath of this Month of
June

June, and those in other Places of *Scotland* on or before the first *Sabbath* of *August* next; and the Money collected to be paid in to Messrs. *William Hogg* and Son, Merchants in *Edinburgh*,---A Committee named to call for an Aecompt of what the Collection shall amount to, out of which they shall cause to be paid to Mr. *John-James Mansa*, Minister in *Saarbruck*, or any having his Order, what they shall judge to be a proper Allowance for his Expence in travelling to this Place, and returning home, together with 100 *l. Sterling* for the Use of the said Church, and after further allowing for the incidental Charges in making the Collection, the Committee shall report the Overplus to the next General Assembly, to be disposed of by them as they shall think proper. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to prepare an Act and Recommendation for a general Collection, in order to the educating of Students having the *Irish* Language, and to lay the same before the Commission; and the several Synods, at their Meeting after the first of *March*, appointed to enquire at their respective Members, if they have made the said Collection. *Ibid.*

A Petition for *James Laurie* in *Duglie*, craving to be reponed against a Sentence pronounced against him in Absence, by the Commission in *November* last, referred to the Commission of this Assembly, with Power to them to do therein as they see Cause, *Ibid.*

An Appeal of *Robert Stevenson* Merchant in *Borrowstounness*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweddale*, appointing him to satisfy Church-Discipline as an Adulterer, referred to the Commission, with Power to them to cognosce and finally determine therein as they see Cause. *Ibid.*

A Representation by the Presbytery of *Forfar*, concerning a School employed in their Bounds, by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge; but which was dismissed by them about two Years ago; remitted to the said Society. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to give such directions to the Synod of *Dumfries* as they see Cause, how to proceed in a Process of Scandal, against a Man where the Woman is removed to England, and not subject to the Judicatories in *Scotland*. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Fife*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Moray*, and *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, attested. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Ross*, *Glenelg*, *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweddale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Argyle*, *Perth* and *Stirling*; *Aberdeen*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland*, absent, and ordered to be brought up, to be revised by the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

Act

I N D E X 1761.

Act appointing the Synod of *Ross* to have their Meetings henceforth upon the third *Tuesday* of *April*. *Ibid.*

Protestation admitted at the Instance of the Synod of *Galloway*, against Sir *William Maxwell*, for not insisting in an Appeal taken by him from a Sentence of the said Synod. *Ibid.*

Protestation admitted at the Instance of the Presbytery of *Mull*, against the Parishioners of the Parish of *Harris*, for not insisting in an Appeal taken by them, from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Uist*, transporting Mr. Kenneth MacAuly from the Parish of *Harris*, in the Presbytery of *Uist*, to the Parish of *Ardnamurchan*, in the Presbytery of *Mull*. *Ibid.*

List of Probationers in the Bounds of 33 Presbyteries, amounting to 96, produced and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this Sederunt read, those of former Sederunts having been read at the Diets subsequent to each Sederunt. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of this Assembly's Proceedings, at this and all the other Diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of this Assembly as are to be standing Rules, or are of public Use, in order to their being printed. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Assembly, and to his Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commissioner's Speech in Return thereto, and then the Assembly concluded. *Ibid.*

F I N I S.

